

SUMMARY OF 2ND REGIONAL PLANNING OFFICIALS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Meeting Time and Location

From late February to early April, 2002, a series of meetings of the Regional Planning Officials (RPO) Advisory Council was held in support of the Update to the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan.

The specific purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for advocates of Louisiana's "Megaprojects" to present to the Council reasons why their major highway improvements should be included in the updated Plan. Project sponsors were requested to provide and present specific information regarding their proposed project including its description, purpose, benefits, cost, importance to the state, potential funding sources, and other related information.

A total of six RPO Council meetings were held on the following dates:

- February 21
- March 6 - 7
- March 20 - 21
- April 3

Meeting Attendees

Council Members

Don Tolar, DOTD
James Forrest, DOTD
Bruce Easterly, DOTD
Robert Roth, DOTD
Gary Icenogle, DOTD
Keith Tindell, DOTD
James Porter, IMCAL (Lake Charles MPO)
Dwight Minton, IMCAL (Lake Charles MPO)
Kent Rogers, NLCOG (Shreveport MPO)
Chris Petro, NLCOG (Shreveport-Bossier MPO)
Kevin Belanger, South Central Planning (Houma MPO)
Ken Perret, DOTD
Kevin Ghirardi, SOPDC
Bobby Hennigan, DOTD
Bill Fontenot, DOTD
John Evanco, DOTD
Wayne Marchand, DOTD
Roy Schmidt, DOTD
Doug Mitchell, North Delta Regional Planning and Development (Monroe MPO)
David Creed, North Delta Regional Planning and Development
Gragling Holdnott, Acadiana Regional Development District
Keith Sayers, RAPC (Alexandria MPO)

Huey Dugas, CRPC (Baton Rouge MPO)
Jeff Roesel, RPC (New Orleans MPO)
Mike Hollier, Lafayette MPO
Jim Harvey, RPC (New Orleans MPO)
David Kane, Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Non-Member DOTD Staff

Eric Kalivoda
Dan Broussard
Tom Bartkiewicz
Ricky Moon
Kent Israel

Consultant Team Members

Butch Babineaux, Wilbur Smith Associates
Bob Schmidt, HNTB Corporation
Chris Chritton, Wilbur Smith Associates

Other Attendees

Roy Francis, LA1 Coalition
Loulan Pitre, La House of Representatives

Jamie Setze, FHWA
Larry Matthews, City of Alexandria

Meeting Purpose

The meetings were held in Baton Rouge, at either the Marriott or Radisson Hotel.

The April 3rd meeting served as a forum where Council members could deliberate over the relative merits and disbenefits of each project, based on the information presented at the previous five meetings. The Consultant Team distributed and presented exhibits and tables summarizing the “megaprojects” as well as the evaluation criteria and process to be used in assessing their impacts and justification for inclusion in the Plan Update. The results of this final RPO Council meeting served as the foundation of the evaluation process that LDOTD is now implementing to determine the projects that would most benefit the state.

Table 1 documents when the informational briefings were held for the various Megaproject proposals.

Table 1: Schedule of Louisiana Megaproject Presentations Given to the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council

	February 21	March 6	March 7	March 20	March 21	April 3
8:00 - 9:00		Update by DOTD; LIIEP Commission, etc.	US 61 (6 laning BR-Gonzales) LA 67 (4 laning Baker-Zachary)	Bastrop By-Pass	I-49 South	LA 1 North
9:00 - 10:00	Ouachita Loop (Monroe)	I-69 (New interstate, northwest corner of LA)	Earhart Expressway; Florida Ave. Expressway	University Avenue Extension (LA 3234 Hammond; I-55 to I-12)	I-10, LA 1 Connector (w/br. over ICWW-W.B.R. parish)	US 371
10:00 - 11:00	Acadiana Trail (US 190/LA 12, Texas Line - Basile)	I-49 North (New Interstate, Shreveport-Arkansas Line)	Peters Road Extension; Donner Road	Zachary Taylor Parkway (LA 1, Alex. - New Roads; LA 10, New Roads - Mississippi)	Chalmette Bridge (I-510 extension/ I-10 - I-49 connector)	Garrett Road, Monroe
11:00 - 12:00	Larose-Lafitte; US 65 (Clayton-Ark line); Interstate Widening ('96 plan)	Tarbutton Rd./I-20 Interchange & Frontage Rd. (Ruston, LA)	US 190 Corridor, St. Tammany Parish; I-10 East N.O.	East Natchitoches By-Pass	Port of S. LA I-10 Connector	
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch					
1:30 - 2:30	US 165 Upgrade to Freeway (I-10, Alex, Monroe); LA 1 Relocated (Raceland-	LA 511 Bridge over Red River, Shreveport	Port Access Road Lake Charles	LA 117 (Leesville - LA 6)	El Camino East-West Corridor (LA 6, TX-Clarence; US 84 Clarence-Vidalia)	
2:30 - 3:30	White Castle); Houma Tunnel; Belle Chase	Lafayette Beltway		<i>Tentative - McArthur Drive upgrade COA Alexandria</i>	LA 1 (Port Fourchon - US 90); N-S Hurricane Evac. (US 90-I-10)	
3:30 - 4:30	Tunnel; US 61 (Thompson Cr - Bains)	Baton Rouge by-Pass		LA 28 West/LA 8 (Alexandria-Texas)	US 167 Abbeville By Pass	
4:30 - 5:30		LA 408 (LA 37-LA 16)		Industrial Access Corridor, Ascension Parish (includes St. Landry Road upgrade/extension)	LA 28 East 4 laning (Alexandria, LA-Archie)	